



Il Poverello Fraternity
Secular Franciscan Order

Joy for the Journey

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Pope Francis' Agenda: "To Walk, To Build, To Profess Christ Crucified"

The following is a Vatican English translation of Pope Francis' first extended message on Peter's chair - which, in a shift from papal protocol, wasn't delivered from the chapel's throne, but with the new Pope standing at the pulpit (above), *sin miter...* not to mention a *braccio* (that is, *off-the-cuff*):

In these three readings [Isaiah 2:2-5, 1 Peter 2:4-9, Matthew 16:13-19] I see that there is something in common: it is movement. In the first reading, movement is the journey [itself]; in the second reading, movement is in the up-building of the Church. In the third, in the Gospel, the movement is in [the act of] profession: walking, building, professing.

Walking: the House of Jacob. "O house of Jacob, Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord." This is the first thing God said to Abraham: "Walk in my presence and be blameless." Walking: our life is a journey and when we stop, there is something wrong. Walking always, in the presence of the Lord, in the light of the Lord, seeking to live with that blamelessness, which God asks of Abraham, in his promise.

Il Poverello
Fraternity
Gatherings

May 25
June 22
July 27
August 17& 24

Birthdays and
Profession
Anniversaries

May/June

Jim & Cindy profession
5/1/83
Eunice profession
5/5/57
John profession
5/20/05
Lynn birthday 5/28
John birthday 6/21

The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order



As Secular Franciscans we are constantly challenged to mindfully follow the rule of St. Francis

Chapter 2:
The Way of Life
Article 13

Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively. Mindful that anyone "who follows Christ, the perfect man, becomes more of a man himself," let them exercise their responsibilities competently in the Christian spirit of service.

Reflections:

- How fraternal is your world? Your family? Your workplace?

Prayer Requests



- ◆ that we, as Franciscans, can make a difference to bring peace and justice and an end to violence
- ◆ for our Holy Father, Bishop Robert Vasa and the Priests of the Santa Rosa Diocese
- ◆ for the Secular Franciscan Order throughout the world
- ◆ for the Blessed Junipero Serra Region and the Executive Council
- ◆ healing for Gregory Sandritter, Regional councilor
- ◆ Jim and Cindy's moving
- ◆ for an end to the violence in Svria and for peace

A Bit of Papal

*Pope Francis is the first non-European pope since Gregory III, who was Pope from 731-741, and is the first Jesuit to become Pope. And as we already know, he is the first Pope from the Americas, and the first Pope to take the name of Francis in honor of St. Francis of Assisi.

*The number of Popes who belonged to religious orders are listed as follows:

Benedictines - 17

Augustinians-including Canons Regular - 6

Dominicans - 4

Franciscans-all branches - 4

Cistercians - 2

Jesuits - 1

Not included were any that were members of the secular orders.

**Why do Popes change their names?* This question actually took a bit of research. It wasn't until 533 when the elected Pope took the name John II, changing it from his baptismal name which was Mecurius. He deemed it inappropriate for a pope to be named after a pagan deity. Then from the 10th century on it became customary, although even then it did vary. The last pope to use his own name was Pope Marcellus II in 1555. Since that time each pope has chosen a name other than his own baptismal name.

**Why do Popes wear white?* Most will say that it was Pope St. Pius V who began the tradition of wearing the white Cassock. He belonged to

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to children on the beach when they make sandcastles: everything collapses, it is without consistency. When one does not profess Jesus Christ - I recall the phrase of Leon Bloy - "Whoever does not pray to God, prays to the devil." When one does not profess Jesus Christ, one professes the worldliness of the devil.

Walking, building-constructing, professing: the thing, however, is not so easy, because in walking, in building, in professing, there are sometimes shake-ups - there are movements that are not part of the path: there are movements that pull us back.

This Gospel continues with a special situation. The same Peter who confessed Jesus Christ, says, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. I will follow you, but let us not speak of the Cross. This has nothing to do with it." He says, "I'll follow you on other ways, that do not include the Cross." When we walk without the Cross, when we build without the Cross, and when we profess Christ without the Cross, we are not disciples of the Lord. We are worldly, we are bishops, priests, cardinals, Popes, but not disciples of the Lord.

I would like that all of us, after these days of grace, might have the courage - the courage - to walk in the presence of the Lord, with the Cross of the Lord: to build the Church on the Blood of the Lord, which is shed on the Cross, and to profess the one glory, Christ Crucified. In this way, the Church will go forward.

My hope for all of us is that the Holy Spirit, that the prayer of Our Lady, our Mother, might grant us this grace: to walk, to build, to profess Jesus Christ Crucified. So be it.